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**DELAWARE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE LAUNCHES
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

New Center will assist technology businesses and start-ups

Dover, DE (November 27, 2006) - The Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO) today announced the official launch of the Delaware Emerging Technology Center (ETC) which will provide services to help Delaware's technology-based entrepreneurs and start-up companies.

The ETC is part of Governor Ruth Ann Minner's New Economy Initiative and represents an innovative approach to stimulate and support new and existing technology-focused businesses and, ultimately, create jobs. As part of this effort, DEDO continues to stimulate growth in the technology-based economy by encouraging more people to explore entrepreneurship. This grassroots effort will link the state's entrepreneurs and research institutions, identify funding for commercialization activities and foster the growth of the region's most promising companies.

"The launch of the Delaware Emerging Technology Center will promote our entrepreneurial climate, create business opportunities and high-paying jobs and represent a key investment in our state's future," said Gov. Minner.

The mission of the ETC is to help technology-based and early stage businesses find traditional seed capital, alternative funding, a skilled workforce, commercialization assistance, intellectual capital and other entrepreneurial resources. The goal of the Center is to build on Delaware's existing resources and assets to empower technology-based entrepreneurs and companies to realize the potential of their business ideas.

Noureddine Melikechi, Director of the Applied Optics Center at Delaware State University and a member of the ETC Advisory Board said, "The Emerging Technology Center will become a leading asset for the state of Delaware and assist our college and universities in retaining our talented graduates."

The ETC will work in tandem with existing technology and entrepreneurship programs managed by DEDO and also with non-profit business initiatives such as the recently launched First State Innovation (FSI) program.

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As part of this formal launch, the ETC is currently conducting a search for its first Executive Director. That Director will be named in early 2007 and will continue to expand the Center's programs and the resources available to local and regional entrepreneurs and companies.

ETC programs and resources are now available to entrepreneurs and companies and are outlined on the Center's Web site at www.delawareetc.org.

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